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Agnew: Papers Issue Appalls World Heads

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, July 11 (AP)—Vice President Spiro T. Agnew said today world leaders have told him they are "just appalled" at publication of the Pentagon papers on Vietnam. He said they feel the United States cannot continue as a world power if every secret "is leaked to the papers."

Agnew was asked if he has received any reaction to the publication of the secret papers from the leaders with who he has conferred so far in six Asian and African nations. He replied: "You bet I have. At every stop. They're just appalled."

"Every leader I've talked to is appalled by the idea that a private businessman who is a newspaper editor can assume unto himself the power to declassify by himself secret government papers."

He said they are concerned, not at the declassification so much, but why "the editor of The New York Times" should be able to decide what material would no longer jeopardize national security.

Asked if the publication of the papers in The Times and elsewhere, upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, has hampered his talks, Agnew said it hadn't because "they have confidence that I felt the same way they did," and would not reveal secret matters.

The incident, the Vice President added, would make it more difficult for a president to get full and candid advice from his advisers for fear a portion of the advice, or merely a summary of views, might later be leaked and printed.

Agnew also was asked about the views expressed by foreign leaders about various aspects of the United States.

Vietnam "almost never comes up," he said, because of Middle East. He said there overriding concern about the Middle East. He said there had been no mention of U.S. social and racial problems.

He said there has been no direct discussion of U.S. politics but added he thinks "they assume" President Nixon will seek re-election in 1972. He added he has given no indication of his own intentions.

The Vice President told reporters accompanying him on the 31-day, 11-nation trip that the leaders he has met see Congressional decisions to bar funds for the supersonic transport and cut space spending as "a retreat from responsibility" spurred by "unproven accusations about potential environmental dangers."

Except for a brief talk in a hotel ballroom to more than 500 Americans in the Ethiopian capital, Agnew had no official schedule for the only full day of his visit to Addis Ababa. He met yesterday with Emperor Haile Selassie and other leaders.

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